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## **Cincinnati Hosts Regional Government Employee Energy Fair**

*by Ginnell Schiller, OEQ, Climate Protection Coordinator*

On November 7<sup>th</sup> the City of Cincinnati hosted the first Regional Government Employee Energy Fair at the Duke Energy Convention Center. Open to all municipal employees in the tri-state region, it provided the opportunity to hear a variety of speakers and talk to a wide range of exhibitors about topics like energy efficient lighting, geothermal heating and cooling systems, recycling, [ENERGY STAR](#)<sup>®</sup>



Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) provides information to employee on water conservation.



People Working Cooperatively (PWC) shows employees simple steps to making their homes more energy efficient.

tools, occupancy sensors and to check out an electric car. Sponsors included [Honeywell](#), [Ameresco](#), and [Duke Energy](#). Approximately 500 attended the event.

In June the Cincinnati City Council endorsed The [Green Cincinnati Plan](#) with its goal to make the City more sustainable. As leaders for the community at large, one strategy that Mayor Mark Mallory and the City Administration chose was to focus on City government employees, emphasizing energy conservation measures both at work and home.

“Transitioning to a sustainable or “green” lifestyle requires modifications that are often easy, simple, save significant money and improve health. The Energy Fair was an ideal forum for providing the educational tools and techniques to facilitate these changes,” said City Manager Milton Dohoney. “Our employees learned how to reduce the City’s energy bills and their home energy bills as well.” An invitation was also extended to government leaders from the region for their employees.

It is critically important for every City employee to participate in the City’s ongoing energy conservation efforts. “Energy conservation saves money and natural resources, while reducing global warming and dependence on foreign energy sources. Simple decisions that we all make every day significantly impact our energy usage,” said Mayor Mark Mallory.

The Office of Environmental Quality and the City’s Energy Management Team were the Energy Fair organizers. Numerous other City employees volunteered time to the event.

**Regional Government Employee Energy Fair** *continued on page 2*

## Regional Government Employee Energy Fair

*continued from page 1*

The [Green Cincinnati Plan](#) encompasses strategies to reduce Cincinnati's carbon footprint and makes over 80 recommendations in six areas of transportation, energy, waste, land use, food and advocacy. In addition to reducing emissions of greenhouse gasses, the plan will realize multiple benefits for the community, such as a healthier city and residents, monetary savings, a stronger local economy, and the creation of more local jobs.

For more information about the Energy Fair, contact Bonnie Phillips, the Office of Environmental Quality, at 513-352-5310 or [bonnie.phillips@cincinnati-oh.gov](mailto:bonnie.phillips@cincinnati-oh.gov).



City of Cincinnati residents living in a single family home or an apartment building with less than 5 units can have a recycling bin delivered at no cost! Simply call the City of Cincinnati at 591-6000.

## City Hires New Recycling Coordinator

The City's Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ) is pleased to welcome Sue Magness as the City's new Recycling Coordinator. Sue brings with her over 17 years of experience in environmental education in both the public and non-profit sectors. Before joining the City of Cincinnati, Sue worked as the Recycling Education Specialist for the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services providing recycling technical assistance to schools, businesses, communities and state organizations.



Sue is currently the Regional Director for the Environmental Education Council of Ohio and is chair and founding member of the Greater Cincinnati Environmental Educators Association.

OEQ is very excited to have Sue on the team as she will be administering the City's curbside recycling contract along with providing recycling assistance and education to both Cincinnati's residents and to all city employees.

For more information on the City's Recycling Programs, contact Sue Magness at 513-352-5332 or [sue.magness@cincinnati-oh.gov](mailto:sue.magness@cincinnati-oh.gov)

## Curbside Recycling Update

*by Sue Magness, OEQ, Recycling Coordinator*

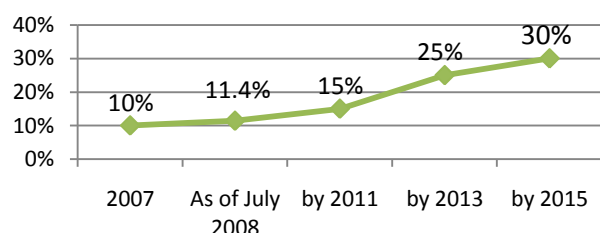
The Office of Environmental Quality is currently working on Request for Proposals (RFP) related to the City of Cincinnati's curbside recycling collection program. The current curbside recycling contract with Rumpke expires on May 31, 2009.

In 2007, the City disposed of 97,615 tons of waste in the landfill at a cost of \$24.50/ton, which cost more than 2.3 million dollars. The Cincinnati City Council has expressed its commitment to increase the amount of waste diverted from the landfill through recycling to increase savings to the City in avoided landfill disposal costs. The diversion rate in 2007 was 10%, and 11.4% July 2008. The City wishes to increase the rate to 15% by 2011, 25% by 2013, and 30% by 2015. To reach the higher goal, council wishes to expand the eligible households to include more apartments and condominiums and improve recycling efforts by all City departments and facilities. City Council is also interested in a performance-based contract, an innovative financial incentive program for residents, and revenue sharing for recyclables sold.

The procurement process will implement directives (City Council motions # [200800630](#), [200800632](#), [200800634](#)), and measures recommended in the 2007 comprehensive recycling report issued by the [City's Environmental Advisory Council](#), and the [Green Cincinnati Plan](#) (the City's Climate Protection Action Plan)

Responses to the RFP's are due January 20, 2009. A committee will review the proposal and announce the award by March 2009. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Magness at 513-352-5332 or email [sue.magness@cincinnati-oh.gov](mailto:sue.magness@cincinnati-oh.gov).

### **Landfill Diversion**



## **Environmental Remediation Projects - Update**

*by Bonnie Phillips, OEQ, Environmental Compliance Manager*

### **Great Progress at MetroWest Site**

After several years of planning and preparation, work to prepare the 18-acre MetroWest site in Lower Price Hill for redevelopment is progressing on time and nearly on budget. Unexpected underground storage tank removals have added slightly to the overall project costs. All asbestos abatement has been completed in 18 of the 20 buildings. Fifteen buildings have been demolished to date. Soil remediation is ongoing. Project completion for the demolition and environmental remediation scope of work is still planned for May 2009.

### **Soil Remediation at Queensgate South Nearly Complete**

Soil remediation at the 17-acre Queensgate South site is expected to be completed by the end of 2008. The No Further Action letter should be submitted to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency by May 2009. The Covenant Not To Sue (CNS) from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency is expected to be issued by the end of 2009.

### **City awaiting Covenant Not To Sue (CNS) from OEPA at the Center Hill Landfill Project Site**

The environmental investigation at the 60+ acre former Center Hill Landfill site is drawing to a close. The City's certified professional has submitted the No Further Action letter to OEPA. Receipt of the CNS – which will allow for site redevelopment – is expected by the end of the first quarter 2009.

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## **OEQ to Perform Environmental Compliance Audits of City Facilities**

*by Jack Wachter, OEQ, Senior Environmental Safety Specialist*

City facilities are subject to a wide range of environmental regulations. They also face many unregulated environmental risks and opportunities. OEQ has started performing in-house environmental compliance audits of City facilities, as part of its internal environmental management program. The intention of the program is to ensure that City operations meet all legal requirements and are consistent with the City's best interests. The audits will deal with such topics as air, water, and waste compliance, in addition to the proper management of underground storage tanks, oil spill prevention, and hazardous waste transportation. The audits will also determine such things as whether the facility has an appropriate recycling process in place, whether the energy management plan has been adequately implemented, and whether the facility has a process in place to purchase environmentally preferable products.

The compliance audits are a tool to help City departments be consistent with environmental regulatory requirements and generally accepted industry standards for good environmental stewardship. The audits will identify where there are opportunities for improvement. OEQ will provide coaching and consulting to ensure that City departments have the knowledge needed to implement any improved procedures or practices.

Facilities will be selected where chemicals are stored or used, industrial types of activities take place, or where field crews are based. The first facility audited is the Neighborhood Operations' West Fork Garage, where the City's Sanitation trucks are housed and serviced. A pre-audit questionnaire was conducted at the Garage on November 21, 2008 and the full audit was conducted on December 9, 2008.





## City Taking Advantage of Grant Opportunities to Implement Environmental Programs

by Bonnie Phillips, OEQ, Environmental Compliance Manager and Ginnell Schiller, OEQ, Climate Protection Coordinator

- Vying for its 4<sup>th</sup> Brownfield Job Training Grant, the City of Cincinnati submitted a \$200,000 grant application to the US Environmental Protection Agency on October 15, 2008. If received, this grant will allow the City to continue to train Cincinnati and Hamilton County residents to be environmental technicians. The grant program will provide 8-weeks of free grant-funded training to qualified applicants. Training focused in lead and asbestos abatement, mold remediation, and hazardous waste removal among others will qualify our graduates to work on local brownfield project sites. One hundred forty seven residents have completed the training under the first three grant programs and 63% of them have found employment as environmental field technicians.
- The Port Authority, the City of Cincinnati, and Hamilton County have formed a coalition and jointly submitted a Community-Wide Assessment Grant application to the US Environmental Protection Agency on November 15, 2008. The application requested \$750,000 to investigate hazardous substance contamination and \$250,000 to investigate petroleum contamination. Following the grant award, a Brownfield Assessment Working Group will be convened to decide the priorities and schedule for the program, establish the application and selection process, and review applications and award grant funding for environmental assessments. The Working Group will consist of representatives from the Port Authority, the City of Cincinnati, Hamilton County, local businesses, and community organizations. Community input will be sought at each step of the site selection process and staff from the Port Authority, the City of Cincinnati, and Hamilton County will be available to provide status reports, as requested.
- The Environmental Community Organization (ECO) and the City of Cincinnati partnered to request \$75,000 from The Greater Cincinnati Foundation (GCF) to support the advocacy efforts proposed in the Mayor's Green Cincinnati Plan (formerly Climate Protection Action Plan). The objective of the advocacy efforts is to achieve behavior change among our citizens to reduce their impact on Climate Change and thus live in a more sustainable manner.

The funds are needed to create a website and ad campaign to make individuals and businesses aware of and educate them about the issues. Constituents would be encouraged to commit to specific energy conservation activities. The GCF application was submitted on Sept 1 with the decision due this month.

- The Cincinnati Energy Alliance (CEA) is a coalition that includes Green Energy Ohio, the City of Cincinnati, Duke Energy, People Working Cooperatively, and others. CEA has requested \$75,000 each in funds from The Greater Cincinnati Foundation and the Duke Energy Foundation. CEA's mission is to achieve gas, electricity and water savings by retrofitting buildings and installing energy efficient and renewable technologies for the residential and small business sectors. The utility savings will cover the cost of the upgrades, allowing the work to be done with no initial investment and a positive cash flow throughout the life of each project. Based on a successful model developed in Cambridge, Massachusetts, this initiative has been in the planning and advocacy stage for 8 months. The GCF application was submitted on Sept 1 and the grant was awarded last week. The Duke Foundation decision is also expected in December. **FLASH!** CEA has been awarded the requested \$75,000 from GCF!
- OEQ and MSD have partnered on an application to Ohio EPA's Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund for \$5 million to be loaned to private entities at below market rates to encourage construction of vegetated green roofs. **FLASH!** The application has been approved. Low interest loans for green roof construction will be available starting in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2009.

### Holiday Tree Recycling

by Sue Magness, OEQ, Recycling Coordinator



Residents of Cincinnati have until January 16 to place cut Christmas trees and other yard waste at the curb for free collection. Beginning the week of January 19, residents **must** call 591-6000 to request yard waste collection. Weekly yard waste collection will resume in the spring 2009.

## **Green Cincinnati Plan Progress Forward**

by Ginnell Schiller, OEQ, Climate Protection Coordinator

As reported in the previous OEQ newsletter, City Council adopted the [Green Cincinnati Plan](#) (formerly the Climate Protection Action Plan) in June 2008, paving the way for its implementation phase to begin. With 80 plus recommendations, this is no small feat. In the last six months champions have emerged to spearhead nearly every recommendation. They represent individuals and organizations from non-profits (People Working Cooperatively) to businesses (Duke Energy) and associations (Building Owners and Managers Association) to municipalities (many City departments)

An inspirational example focuses on activities to advance the Advocacy section of the Plan. Interested citizens formed the Advocacy Task Team to lead the marketing and outreach efforts, which will create the behavior change necessary for a reduced carbon footprint. In its short six month tenure, the team developed a project charter, broadly defined target audiences, researched other cities' green initiatives, and initiated three sub-teams which have made great strides towards their respective goals:

- The Marketing Team is developing a method to build awareness and capture commitment from residents, businesses and community organizations.
- The Summit Team is planning a daylong summit targeted to businesses and community organizations to encourage conservation activities. The Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber of Commerce will co-sponsor the event.
- The Public Education Team is developing materials and kits for educational purposes for use within schools and other organizations.

Additionally, several recommendations have achieved successful end results. Metro purchased 6 hybrid buses that will be delivered in first quarter 2009. Schoonover Motors, a vehicle dealership in Newtown, is now selling an all-electric line, the GEM car by Chrysler. One of the local railroads received a grant to purchase a hybrid electric switcher engine for their yard. The Cincinnati Energy Alliance received \$75,000 from the Greater Cincinnati Foundation (See grants article) for start-up funding. A Solar Electric system was installed at Finley Market and the City of Cincinnati adopted a "no idle" policy for its fleet.

Many organizations and individuals were involved in making these successes a reality. It is truly encouraging to see such concerted efforts to make our city green.

### Other Green Cincinnati promotional activities that have occurred include:

- Two air conditioner trade-in events (Co-sponsored with Duke Energy and Best Buy)
- Green Energy Ohio's 2008 Solar Tour promotion
- Creation of an *Easy Lifestyle Modifications* brochure highlighting green behaviors
- Presentations to various groups, including: Building Owners and Managers Association; Real Estate Investor's Association; Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Apartment Association; Cincinnati Bar Association; Hamilton County Environmental Action Commission; Proctor & Gamble ITI; Chinese American Chamber of Congress; and several University of Cincinnati Planning Department Classes
- Press coverage in Cincinnati Magazine, Business Journal, Live Green Cincinnati website, and League of Women Voters and Sierra Club Newsletters

## **Bicycling in Cincinnati – Rising Expectations**

*Guest article by Jim Coppock, P.E., Department of Transportation and Engineering*

One hundred twenty-five bicyclists and advocates recently came to City Hall to discuss their needs and wants. The folks who already ride have contributed to the City's air quality and gasoline consumption. In general, they hope for calmer and safer streets and trails, more education of bicyclists and motorists and removal of barriers to commuting by bike.

Although bicycling currently accounts for less than 1% of trips in the Cincinnati area, the jump in fuel prices sparked a spike in bike and transit commuting in 2008. Schools reconsidered allowing kids to ride, bike-to-work events spanned the whole month of May, and bikes carried on buses surged. Bike shops reported record sales and conversions of older bikes for commuting increased to the point of a shortage of parts.

Most bike trips are less than five miles. If it's an option for you, please consider doing your share, check the resources at hand and talk to the folks who do ride – it takes some fore-thought. The City's Bicycle Transportation Program website [www.cincinnati-oh.gov/transeng/pages/-6807-/](http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/transeng/pages/-6807-/) has map of downtown bike racks. For route selection, OKI Council of Governments publishes maps of recommended routes. The Cincinnati Bike Route Guide is being updated and should be available for Spring of 2009 ([www.oki.org](http://www.oki.org)). A loose coalition of bicycle advocacy groups has formed under the name Queen City Bike. Their website ([www.queencitybike.com](http://www.queencitybike.com)) links you to local and national resources. "The Art of Cycling" by Robert Hurst is a good read about confident cycling – riding at rush hour is different than riding to grade school on a sidewalk. To deal with hills and busy arterial streets, Metro and TANK can help some folks extend their range.

Motorists can help out by being attentive, slowing down and using care around cyclists and pedestrians. Adults on bikes is one of the signs of a healthy city. For every cyclist that you see on the road, there are 3 or 4 more people who wish they could ride.



*A swarm of cyclists arrive at City Hall, October 22, 2008*

## **Electric Car Incentive**

*by Terri Howard, OEQ, Administrative Specialist*

On November 26<sup>th</sup> City Council passed a motion which will provide FREE parking for **all-electric** vehicles in the Fountain Square South (416 Vine Street) Garage, Garfield Garage (13 W. Ninth Street), Fifth and Race Parking Lot and the Seventh Street Garage (Level 3 only). This free parking incentive for electric cars will also include any parking meter within the city limits.

Parking in the designated City garages will be on a first come, first serve basis with no overnight privileges. The purpose of on street parking meters is to promote vehicle turnover to support local downtown and Neighborhood Business District (NBD) business. Electric vehicles will receive free parking for the time permitted by the parking meter. After the initial time frame allowed for the meter the customer would be required to vacate the parking spot.

No reliable estimates exist for how many all-electric vehicles currently exist in Cincinnati, or how many would arrive in response to the free parking incentive. However, in moving forward with this green incentive, the City Administration will implement a three month pilot project. The pilot project will help in determining the extent of the cost to administer the program.

For more details on the all-electric car incentive program, contact Larry Falkin, Director of the Office of Environmental Quality at 513-352-5325 or [larry.falkin@cincinnati-oh.gov](mailto:larry.falkin@cincinnati-oh.gov).

## **2009 Budget Update**

City Council has adopted the 2009 budget for the City of Cincinnati. The budget reflects some harsh realities. The current economic downturn is reflected in projections that the City's revenue will not grow in 2009, while costs of energy, health care, and other major expense categories continue to rise. Despite the difficult budget circumstances, the budget provides for the creation of a permanent Climate Protection Coordinator position within the Office of Environmental Quality to oversee the implementation of the Green Cincinnati Plan. For the past 15 months, climate protection efforts have been staffed with a temporary employee. Council also funded an Internal Environmental Compliance program, with 1 staff person, to assure that the City is fulfilling its regulatory obligations under environmental law and practicing good environmental stewardship. It is anticipated that as part of the internal Environmental

## City Gears Up to Enhance Its Internal Recycling Program

*by Sue Magness, OEQ, Recycling Coordinator*

In moving forward with its commitment to a greener Cincinnati, the city administration has recently taken a closer look at its own internal recycling efforts. Currently there are approximately 400 city owned facilities, only 50 of which have some type of internal recycling program. Most of the 50 facilities are only recycling office paper. "We want to ensure that the list of recycled materials will be expanded to include all mixed paper, plastics, glass, cardboard, and metals. There are also other opportunities to recycle cell phones, computers, printer cartridges, florescent tubes, batteries, wood pallets, etc." said Sue Magness, City of Cincinnati Recycling Coordinator.



Beginning in January 2009, the Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ) will begin recruiting City employees interested in leading their department/divisions in enhancing their internal recycling program. OEQ will begin holding training sessions in January 2009. This training is for building coordinators and their "**green team**" members who are enthusiastic about helping to implement and/or enhance their internal recycling program. These training sessions will cover how to set up and maintain an effective and sustainable recycling program, recycling service options, developing education, and marketing strategies to ensure all staff and visitors are motivated and understand how to effectively participate.

Additional training sessions will be held in May and September, 2009. All City employees are encouraged to attend the training sessions. If you would like to become your department/divisions' recycling coordinator or want more information on the city's internal recycling program, contact Sue Magness at 513-352-5332 or [sue.magness@cincinnati-oh.gov](mailto:sue.magness@cincinnati-oh.gov)

### 2009 Employee Recycling Education Training Schedule

Human Resources Development Academy (HRDA) - Tier 3 Enrichment Lunch and Learn

**NOTE: This training is for City of Cincinnati Employee's ONLY**

- Community Recycling & Climate Protection – Find out how you can make green grow in your department and your home environment.

Tuesday, February 10, 2009	Session 0001: 9:00 am to 11:00 am
Wednesday, April 15, 2009	Session 0002: 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm
Thursday, June 18, 2009	Session 0003: 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm
Friday, August 28, 2009	Session 0004: 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm
Tuesday, October 20, 2009	Session 0005: 9:00 am to 11:00 am

- Office Recycling! Going Green! – Participants will learn about the City wide employee recycling program and learn how to implement and maintain an effective and sustainable program.

Friday, January 16, 2009	Session 0001: 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm
Friday, May 15, 2009	Session 0002: 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm
Friday, September 18, 2009	Session 0003: 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Go to [HRDA 2009 Calendar](#) for more details. Please contact your training registrar to register for these courses.



## Events, Education, Training and Other Resources

- **Sunday, February 1, 2009** - “[Wild Utah: Amercia’s Red Rock Wilderness](#)” - Free presentation hosted by First Unitarian Church and sponsored in conjunction with the City of Cincinnati’s Office of Environmental Quality. This is a multi-media slideshow documenting citizen efforts to designate public lands in southern Utah’s spectacular canyon country as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. Sunday, February 1, 2009 at 12:30 – 1:30 pm at the First Unitarian Church located at 536 Linton Street, Cincinnati, OH (Corner of Reading and Linton) [Map](#).
- **Saturday, March 14, 2009** – [Food Congress](#) at the University of Cincinnati (UC) Community Design Center. The aim of the Food Congress is to bring together stakeholders from Cincinnati’s diverse food-related groups to examine the current state of and to develop a shared vision for the community food system. The next Food Congress planning meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 14, 2009 at 6pm at the UC Community Design Center – 2728 Vine Street near Clifton Avenue. For more information contact David Mann, Food Project Coordinator-University of Cincinnati at 513-556-3282 or [foodproject@uc.edu](mailto:foodproject@uc.edu)
- **April 18, 2009** – Earth Day Celebration at Sawyer Point. Go to the Greater Cincinnati Earth Coalition website for more information: <http://www.earthcoalition.net/>
- **June 20, 2009** – [Ohio River Sweep](#) sponsored by the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission
- **June 26 & 27, 2009** – [PaddleFest](#) – Online registration now open at: <http://ohioriverway.org/paddlefest/>
- [Two-Wheeler Parking Program](#) – In an effort to accommodate the increasing demand for convenient parking for two-wheelers in the urban core, the City introduced a Downtown pilot program for two-wheeler parking in October 2008. The pilot program is based on the results of a month-long public participation process that identified five convenient on-street parking locations.
- [Keep Cincinnati Beautiful Recycling Container Loan Out](#) - Keep Cincinnati Beautiful offers easy-to-use recycling containers for your next event. The containers are easily transportable, highly visible and best of all, we loan them out for free!

### GET INVOLVED

#### **Your City. . . Your Future!**

The City of Cincinnati is looking for volunteers to participate on the “[Green Cincinnati Plan](#)” implementation teams.

To volunteer please contact Ginnell Schiller of the Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ) at [ginnell.schiller@cincinnati-oh.gov](mailto:ginnell.schiller@cincinnati-oh.gov) or phone (513) 352-6911.



### Green Cincinnati Steering Committee 2009 Meeting Schedule

#### Meeting Dates:

Thursday, January 8, 2009  
Thursday, April 9, 2009  
Thursday, July 9, 2009  
Thursday, October 8, 2009

Time: 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm

Location: Metropolitan Sewer District  
1081 Woodrow Street (45203)  
Room 105 & 106  
(off of Gest St., just west of the main plant entrance)

All Green Cincinnati Steering Committee meetings are open to the public. For more information on the Green Cincinnati Steering Committee meetings or the Green Cincinnati Plan contact Ginnell Schiller, Climate Protection Coordinator at 513-352-6911 or [ginnell.schiller@cincinnati-oh.gov](mailto:ginnell.schiller@cincinnati-oh.gov).

For a copy of the [Green Cincinnati Plan](#) go to the City of Cincinnati Office of Environmental Management website at [http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/cmgr/downloads/cmgr\\_pdf18280.pdf](http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/cmgr/downloads/cmgr_pdf18280.pdf)